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Office of Weapons, Technology and Proliferation

24 October 1996

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Russian nuclear designers also could be working on new designs that would require significant changes from previously tested designs. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Russians would incorporate these designs into new warheads, especially without first conducting nuclear testing. An April 1995 Russian press article noted that the development of new types of nuclear weapons was ongoing at the Arzamas-16 nuclear weapons laboratory. The level of official support for such design activities is unknown, but it is probably greatly reduced from previous levels because of the nuclear testing moratorium and national economic conditions.

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